

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
MEPS Data Users' Workshop
Two-Day Computer Hands-On
Conditions, Expenditures and Utilization
AHRQ Conference Center
July 24-25, 2006

Workshop Description

AHRQ will be conducting a two-day workshop to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC) by the health services research community. The workshop, designed for those with an interest in using national health surveys, will be held at the Eisenberg Building, located on 540 Gaither Road in Rockville, MD 20850. At this workshop participants will have the opportunity to bring up specific research questions of interest to them.

Purpose

The purpose of this two-day workshop, with a maximum of 20 participants (cost \$50), will be to facilitate the use of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC) public use medical expenditures and conditions data files by the health services research community by providing both practical information about MEPS files and an opportunity to construct analytic files with the assistance of AHRQ staff. In addition, there will be an overview presentation of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). A PC will be available for each participant.

Who Should Attend

This workshop is designed for health services researchers who have a background or interest in medical expenditures and conditions. Individuals whose primary interest is in state or local area analyses or clinical research would not benefit from this workshop. Given the nature and pace of the workshop, attendees should have some exposure to MEPS and be able to use SAS.

Requirements

All participants should read the *MEPS Workbook* (available on the MEPS Web site, www.meps.ahrq.gov) prior to attending the workshop. The *MEPS Workbook* provides concise information about the HC survey design and file content. All work on the PCs will be conducted in SAS. Because the main purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an opportunity to construct analytic files, participants should have a working knowledge of SAS. In order to maximize the time available for file construction, it will be helpful to participants if they review the MEPS data file documentation and codebooks (also available on the MEPS Web site) prior to the workshop.

Program Description

Participants will be provided a **1 day orientation to MEPS utilization, expenditures and conditions data products**. The first day will consist of lectures on practical information about the survey design, file content, and the construction of analytic files by

data users and the knowledge necessary to formulate research plans utilizing the various MEPS-HC files and linkage capabilities. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed as necessary. All 2003 full-year public use data files will be available on each participant's PC. (Please note that non-public use data will not be available at the workshop.) File documentation, codebooks, and the MEPS survey instrument will be available electronically. If participants prefer hard copies of these materials, they can be downloaded from the MEPS Web site and brought to the workshop by the participant. AHRQ staff will be on-site at all times, including during lunch, to answer questions and provide programming assistance. Participants will utilize the remaining **1 day of the workshop time for hands-on construction of data files on the computers.**

Contact Information

E-mail program questions to: workshop06@ahrq.hhs.gov